Railway engineers joining private companies

†2734. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the engineers employed in Railways and IRCON etc. are quitting their Government jobs and joining private companies where they get higher salary;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of engineers employed in Railways and its PSUs who have taken VRS during last two years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are taking any step to check this tendency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Electrification of Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi-Vellore stretch

2735. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi-Vellore, a 115 kilometres electrification project was scheduled to be completed before March, 2007;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the project;

(c) when the project work was Started and' what was the original target set to complete electrification of this stretch;

(d) the length of route kilometres, so far, completed; and

(e) the reasons for not completing the project within the deadline fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimated cost of the Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi-Vellore (115 Route Kilometres (RKM) project is Rs.45.24 crore.

(c) The project work was Started after the sanction of the estimate in January, 2004. The original target of completion was March, 2006.

(d) 64 RKMs have been electrified till March, 2007.

(e) Due to natural calamity and Contractor's failure.

Trains from Rameshwaram to other parts of the country

2736. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce trains from Rameshwaram to different parts of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.